

**DRAFT**

VERMONT  
COMMISSION  
ON  
NATIVE  
AMERICAN  
AFFAIRS



vcnaa.vermont.gov

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COMMISSION  
Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair  
Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair  
Walker Brook  
Trudy Ann Parker  
Carol Irons  
Cheryl O'Neil  
Paul Fassler  
Joelen Mulvaney  
Rich Holschuh



VCNAA June 8, 2016  
Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair; Jeffrey Benay, Vice-Chair; Carol Irons, Paul Fassler, Munro (Walker) Brook, Rich Holschuh.

**Members Absent:** Cheryl O'Neill, Joelen Mulvaney and Trudy Ann Parker

**Guests:** Jess Robinson, VDHP; Jenni Lavoie; VDHP.

The meeting was brought to order by Lucy Cannon-Neel, Chair at 1:06 pm at 133 State Street, Room 410.

**1. Changes to the Agenda**

Announcements was added under new business, #6.

**2. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**3. Approve March April 13, 2016 Minutes.**

Consensus was reached to approve the May 11, 2016 minutes with no changes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Action Plan**

**a. Developing Teaching Materials**

Carol Irons advised the committee is working on outreach to gather teachers for the curriculum and a grant writer has been selected.

Jeff Benay held a discussion about potential partnership with several groups to acquire a summer camp in New Hampshire.

**b. Dept. of Health – Native Style Treatment & Recovery Program in Swanton for Alcohol & Opiate Addiction**

There was no update for this topic.

**c. Statewide Title VII**

Lucy Cannon-Neel advised she had been in communication with John Castle, the superintendent of the North Country Supervisory Union. They will be working together to consult with superintendents from other towns and counties.

Lucy also advised the commission that she would like to form a group who would be willing to assist with requests from the Chaplain at the VA. The Chaplain has reached out to Lucy in the past to assist native folks in the process of crossing over.

**d. Improve Communications with Tribes**

Rich Holschuh advised that the Commission Facebook page recently received over 100 likes.

**e. Native Traditions Conference**

Lucy Cannon-Neel advised that conference planning is coming along well. Agenda items and presenters are still coming together and she's received a very generous food donation.

**f. Bullying and Harassment in Vermont Schools Study**

There was no update for this topic.

Lucy Cannon-Neel moved to break from 2:00pm – 2:15pm

**2. CT River Hydro Re-Licensing**

Rich Holschuh has advised that the Elnu Tribe has become involved in the process, with Rich as their liaison. Also, Rich advised that at the last meeting the decision was made to have the consultant on the project submit a new Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) study with input from the Federal and State recognized tribes. Jess Robinson explained to commissioners the role of the Division in this process.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Archaeology Guidelines**

A handout of the draft guidelines was distributed to all commissioners. Jess Robinson spoke about the history of the guidelines since he became State Archaeologist. Commissioners will review the draft guidelines over the summer break, with hopes to discuss the topic again in September when the commission reconvenes.

**2. Discussion about Archaeology Survey**

Lucy Cannon-Neel advised that she had received a letter and spoken with the archaeologist involved in the Castleton survey project. She also advised she had been invited to visit the site during the project, which she accepted. Carol Irons will join her in visiting the site. Walker Brook advised that the Elnu tribal chief is actively involved in the project as well.

**3. Renaming of Gorge at Brockways Mills**

Rich Holschuh discussed the history of the idea, that a gentleman in the hamlet of Brockways Mills would like to name the previously unnamed falls at the local gorge. After some outreach and various ideas, Roger Longtoe Sheehan proposed the Abenaki name,

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Sokiki Falls. After discussion that the town and Elnu tribe are in support of the idea, the commission reached consensus that their involvement was not needed.

### **4. Discussion about Meeting with UVM President**

Jeff Benay advised that this meeting did not take place in time to report on at this meeting. After the meeting, Jeff will follow up with Lucy to debrief on the meeting.

### **5. 2016 / 2017 Commission Meeting Schedule**

Jenni Lavoie provided a handout to commissioners with the 2016 / 2017 meeting schedule. She advised that all future meetings will be held at the National Life building in Montpelier.

### **6. Announcements**

Lucy Cannon-Neel advised that she had been contacted by the Noyes Museum in Morristown regarding a dugout canoe that they would like native input on.

Additionally, Lucy thanked Jeff Benay and Trudy Ann Parker (in absentia) for their dedication and hard work over the past four years that they have served on the commission.

## **Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenni Lavoie